TC4937
048 P01

[The following draft has being circulated to E Timor solidarity groups in all EC countries for endorsement. Once agreed, we propose that groups in each country should submit it to their own governments not later than 23 June. It will be formally released to the public in Lisbon on Friday 26 June. Groups in the other countries are asked to release as and when they deem fit. To keep to this timetable, please let us have your endorsement not later than 21 June. We will incorporate minor amendments without consulting all the groups. For practical reasons, we ask your understanding not to propose major alterations, as we cannot undertake to get the approval of other groups if major changes are proposed.]

Joint Statement on Occupied East Timor
to the EC Summit in Lisbon, 26 & 27 June 1992

The undersigned organisations address the following statement to the Summit of the European Community as the Portuguese Presidency of the EC draws to a close:

Portugal took over the Presidency of the EC seven weeks after Indonesian troops opened fire on a peaceful demonstration at the Santa Cruz Cemetery, killing at least 180 people and wounding many more. This atrocity plunged the entire people into mourning. Nothing the forces of occupation has done since then has alleviated the profound grief of the East Timorese people. Under the new military commander, Brig.General Theo Syafei who has banned visits by foreign journalists, they live in the grip of terror, prevented from making any protest or informing the outside world of their opposition to the continued occupation of their country.

It is incumbent on the heads of state of the European Community to give due recognition to the grave situation in East Timor in the Communiqué they issue at the conclusion of their Summit Meeting in Lisbon. The following points in particular need to be addressed:

Human rights and foreign aid

On 28 November 1991, two weeks after the Santa Cruz Massacre, the EC Council of Ministers adopted a Declaration explicitly linking foreign aid to human rights observance. Since then, however, the EC has failed to exert pressure on Indonesia to improve the human rights situation in East Timor.

In March this year, Indonesia cut aid links with the Netherlands which, along with Denmark, had suspended aid to Indonesia in response to the Santa Cruz atrocity. Turning principle on its head, Indonesia accused the Dutch government of using aid for purposes of intimidation. It is a matter of profound regret that the EC failed to respond to Indonesia's attempt to subvert EC policy of linking aid to human rights observance.

The EC Summit should condemn Indonesia for its rejection of the

Doc. file: e:\JIJI\TIMEN

universal principle that human rights abuses are the legitimate concern of the international community. Any EC member-states which attend the meeting of the Consultative Group on Indonesia in Paris on 16/17 July should undertake to ensure that human rights become the central issue at that meeting. If the EC's acceptance of the principle of aid conditionality is to have any meaning, all EC member states which have aid links with Indonesia should suspend aid until human rights violations in East Timor are stopped, until an international investigation of the Santa Cruz Massacre takes place and until Indonesia recognises the right of the East Timorese people to self-determination.

These guidelines should also be applied when the EC negotiates its new treaty on economic cooperation with ASEAN countries later this year.

The civilian and military trials

In a move to persuade the international community that the Santa Cruz atrocity would be dealt with evenhandedly, according to due process, President Suharto ordered his ministers to conduct trials. The trials have been a cruel travesty. In Dili, East Timorese victims who survived the bloodbath face harsh sentences, possibly including life, [this will be amended if verdicts have been passed before the statement is released] for protesting peacefully. In Jakarta, East Timorese who protested peacefully have been given nine and ten years. However, no-one in the army has been tried for murder. On the contrary, low-ranking soldiers have been court-martialled for 'disobeying orders' and each given just a few months sentence, even though they admitted in court that they opened fire on the demonstrators with such fatal consequences.

The EC Summit should condemn these trials and call for the immediate release of all East Timorese already convicted or about to be convicted. It should stress that the EC will not be satisfied until a proper international investigation of the atrocity has been conducted and those responsible are charged with murder.

Peace talks

At a time when several international conflicts have been or are being solved by negotiation, the need for peace talks to resolve the question of East Timor is paramount. The prospects for peace talks are further enhanced because East Timor is now high on the political agenda in Indonesia, due largely to the world outrage at the Santa Cruz Massacre. Furthermore, the East Timor resistance has declared its readiness to enter into peace talks with Indonesia without preconditions and under UN auspices.

The EC Summit should endorse the holding of peace talks with the participation of East Timorese representatives as the crucial step towards end 17 years of occupation and ensuring due recognition of East Timor's right to self-determination.